

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:
 - a first device to track segment order associated with a first execution unit;
 - a second device to track segment order associated with a second execution unit; and
 - a third device coupled to the first device and second device to track relative segment order between the first device and the second device by storing data for a set of switch points, the data indicating a transition in consecutive segment assignment from the first device to the second device, the third device to identify a switch point from the set of switch points that is associated with an instruction occurring after a mispredicted instruction.
2. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the first device is operable to notify the third device of a mispredicted instruction in a segment, and
 - wherein the first device is operable to flush a first segment.
3. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 2, wherein the third device is operable to notify the second device of the mispredicted instruction in the segment, and
 - wherein the second device is operable to flush a second segment.
4. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 2, wherein the third device is operable to notify the first device of the mispredicted instruction in the segment, and
 - wherein the first device is operable to flush a third segment.
5. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a fetch control unit to predict segment order, fetch segments and assign the segments to one of the first device and the second device during a flush operation.

6. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
- tracking the program order of a first set of instructions assigned to a first local reorder buffer in a first execution unit;
 - tracking the program order of a second set of instructions assigned to a second local reorder buffer in a second execution unit; ~~and~~
 - tracking program order of the first set of instructions relative to the second set of instructions in a global reorder buffer by storing data for a set of switch points, the data indicating a transition in assignment of consecutive sets of instructions from the first local reorder buffer to the second local reorder buffer; and
 - identifying, in the global reorder buffer, a switch point from the set of switch points that is associated with an instruction occurring after a mispredicted instruction.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising:
- notifying the global reorder buffer when a mispredicted instruction occurs;
 - initiating a flush operation in the global reorder buffer; and
 - notifying the first local reorder buffer of the mispredicted instruction.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
- notifying a fetch control unit of a mispredicted set of instructions.
9. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:
- sending a signal to the second local reorder buffer to flush at least a third set of instructions.
10. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:
- fetching a fourth set of instructions; and

assigning the fourth set of instruction to the first reorder buffer during a flushing operation.

11. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

retiring an instruction according to an indicator stored in the global reorder buffer.

12. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a bus;

a memory device coupled to the bus; and

a processor including a fetch control unit to fetch instructions from the memory device, a first execution unit to process one or more of the fetched instructions, a second execution unit to process one or more of the fetched instructions, a first reorder buffer to track instructions assigned to the first execution unit, a second reorder buffer to track instructions assigned to the second execution unit, and a global reorder buffer to track instruction order of instructions assigned to the first reorder buffer relative to the second reorder buffer by storing data for a set of switch points, the data indicating a transition in assignment of consecutive sets of instructions from the first reorder buffer to the second reorder buffer, the global reorder buffer to identify a switch point from the set of switch points that is associated with an instruction occurring after a mispredicted instruction.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the first reorder buffer is operable to signal the global reorder buffer upon detection of a mispredicted instruction.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the first reorder buffer is operable to flush a first set of instructions upon detection of a mispredicted instruction, and

wherein the fetch control unit assigns a second set of instructions to the first reorder buffer based on a set of load balancing criteria.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium having stored therein instructions, which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations comprising:

tracking the program order of a first set of instructions assigned to a first local tracking device in a first execution unit;

tracking the program order of a second set of instructions assigned to a second local tracking device in a second execution unit;~~and~~

tracking program order of the first set of instructions relative to the second set of instructions in a global tracking device by storing data for a set of switch points, the data indicating a transition in assignment of consecutive sets of instructions from the first local tracking device to the second local tracking device; and

identifying, in the global tracking device, a switch point from the set of switch points that is associated with an instruction occurring after a mispredicted instruction.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 15, having further instructions stored therein which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations further comprising:

notifying the global tracking device when a mispredicted instruction occurs.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 16, having further instructions stored therein which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations further comprising:

tracking a first set of switch points in the global tracking device.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 16, having further instructions stored therein which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations further comprising:

flushing a second set of switch points based on the mispredicted instruction.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a means for tracking the program order of a first set of instructions assigned to a first local tracking device in a first execution unit;

a means for tracking the program order of a second set of instructions assigned to a second local tracking device in a second execution unit;~~and~~

a means for tracking program order of the first set of instructions relative to the second set of instructions in a global tracking device by storing data for a set of switch points, the data the data indicating a transition in assignment of consecutive sets of instructions from the first local tracking device to the second local tracking device; and

a means for identifying, in the global tracking device, a switch point from the set of switch points that is associated with an instruction occurring after a mispredicted instruction.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:

a means for notifying the global tracking device when a mispredicted instruction occurs.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:

a means for flushing at least a third set of instructions in the first local tracking device.

22.-26. (Canceled)